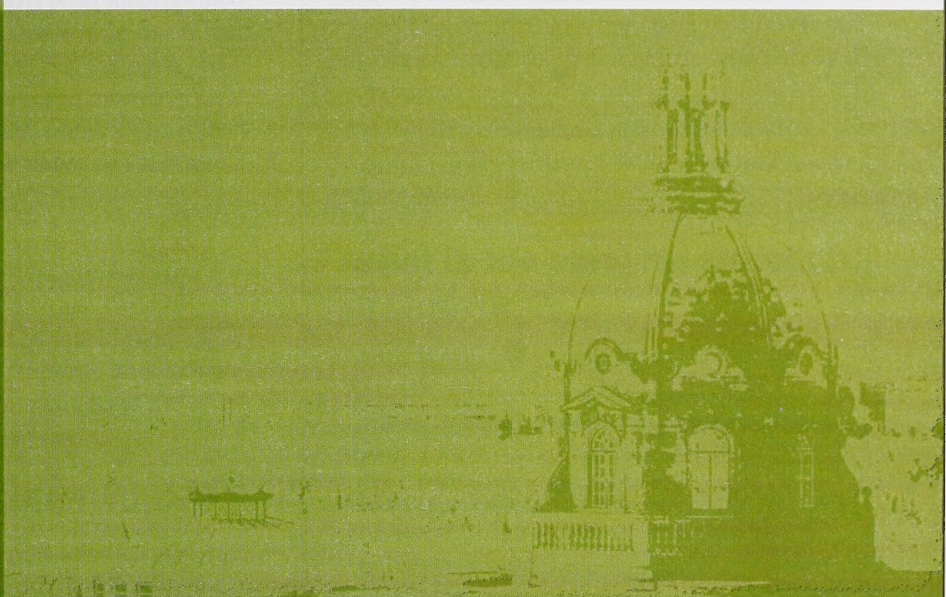


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Town of Onoway

Dissolution Study

October 2008

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What is municipal dissolution?

Dissolution is a legal process under the province's *Municipal Government Act*. This process occurs when a municipality gives up its status as an incorporated municipality to become part of a bordering municipality.

The Town of Onoway (town) is an incorporated municipality. This means that within its defined boundaries, the town council has the power to pass bylaws, the responsibility to provide services to residents, and the authority to collect property taxes and other revenues to support those services.

If the Town of Onoway were to dissolve, it would no longer be a municipality, but would become a hamlet in Lac Ste. Anne County (county). The county council would then be responsible for governing, serving, and taxing the residents of Onoway in addition to the population that it already serves.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a report to assist Alberta's Minister of Municipal Affairs in deciding if a proposed dissolution should proceed.

The dissolution study report for the Town of Onoway attempts to highlight what residents could expect to happen if their municipality were to dissolve. It looks at the municipal functions, services, financial situation, and community issues in the Town of Onoway.

The study compares how the town currently provides services and how the county would provide those services to Onoway residents if the town were to dissolve and become a hamlet in Lac Ste. Anne County.

The areas that are examined in this report include the possible changes to service levels, council representation, administration, and municipal finances.

Alberta Municipal Affairs obtained the information for this dissolution study from the

councils and administrations of the town and county, and from provincial records.

Why consider a dissolution study?

A residents' group had formed in March 2008 to discuss the possibility of a dissolution study. In a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated March 26, 2008, the council of the Town of Onoway requested that a dissolution study be conducted.

The Minister initiated a dissolution study as required under section 130(2)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

What is the existing situation in Onoway?

Onoway was incorporated as a village on June 25, 1923. On September 1, 2005, Onoway's status changed from a village to a town.

Onoway is located approximately 70 kilometers northwest of Edmonton near the junction of Highways 43 and 37.

According to the Ministry's records, the official population of Onoway was 847 in 2003 and 2004. In 2005, the municipality conducted its own census and reported its official population for 2005 and 2006 as 1,036. Based on the 2006 federal census, the 2007 official population for Onoway was 875.

While the official population increased by 189 people between 2003 and 2006, Ministry records show that the number of dwellings in Onoway increased by 12 during the same period.

The town is governed by four councillors and a mayor. The mayor is elected by town residents; Mayor George Jendyk was acclaimed in the 2007 municipal election. Councillor Don Harrison resigned effective June 2008 and a by-election was held August 25, 2008, whereby Councillor Patrick Yuill was elected.

What is the financial situation in Onoway?

Note: *The following financial information is taken from the Town of Onoway's audited municipal financial statements from 2003 to 2007, from Financial Information Returns (FIR), and town records.*

Operating Fund

The following table summarizes the town's operating revenues and expenditures from 2003 to 2007:

Year	Total Revenue	Total Expenditures	Net Revenue (Expenditure)
2003	\$1,113,101	\$1,131,238	\$(18,137)
2004	\$1,157,266	\$1,049,709	\$107,557
2005	\$1,352,710	\$1,171,180	\$181,530
2006	\$1,427,845	\$1,321,092	\$106,753
2007	\$1,699,137	\$1,600,108	\$ 99,029

This table shows that since 2004 the town has brought in sufficient operating revenues to cover operating expenditures. Annually, the town has contributed a portion of the operating surplus to either debt repayment, the capital fund or reserve fund.

On December 31, 2007, the town's operating fund balance was \$34,463.

Capital Reserves

Reserves help a municipality plan and pay for future projects or emergency repairs. If reserves are not sufficient, a municipality may have to fund capital projects or emergency repairs from other sources such as taxation or by borrowing.

On December 31, 2007, the town held capital reserves of \$355,455.

Debt

On December 31, 2007, the town had two debentures with the Alberta Capital Finance Authority (ACFA): one funded an upgrade to the water treatment plant and reservoir in 1983

(scheduled to be paid off in 2008), and the other funded the purchase of a fire truck in 2005 (scheduled to be paid off in 2020).

On December 31, 2007, the town also had two loans with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC): one funded an upgrade to the water system in 2003 (scheduled to be paid in 2009), and the other funded the purchase of a grader in 2005 (scheduled to be paid off in 2010).

On December 31, 2007, the town's debt balance with the ACFA was \$188,362, and its debt balance with CIBC was \$108,583, for a total of \$296,945. However, on May 1, 2008, the town paid in full the remaining balance on the fire truck debenture with ACFA, which amounted to \$174,613. This reduces the total debt balance to \$122,032.

The debenture and loan payments, including utility-related debt, have all been funded by the general tax levy in previous years. In 2008, the town's new utility rate model for water and wastewater services is intended to cover utility costs, including the utility-related debt payments.

On July 28, 2008, the town passed a bylaw to borrow \$2.25 million to fund expansions to the town's water and sanitary distribution systems, and upgrade the fire pump at the water treatment plant. The future debt payments for this debenture are intended to be covered through utility charges.

All municipalities in Alberta have debt limits and debt servicing limits. Debt limits are calculated at 1.5 times the municipality's revenue, and the debt servicing limits are calculated at 0.25 times the municipality's revenue.

On December 31, 2007, the town's total debt limit was \$2,580,731 and the town's service on debt limit was \$430,122. The 2008 debenture bylaw authorizing the town to borrow up to \$2.25 million will bring the town very close to its debt and debt servicing limits. This may

impact on the town's funding options for future capital requirements.

Equalized Property Tax Assessment

Equalized assessment is a uniform way of comparing property wealth for all municipalities and is calculated by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

The town's equalized assessment for 2008 is \$66,365,311. It has increased by 79 per cent from 2004 to 2008. This is largely due to an increase in market value of property as opposed to an increase in growth.

The assessment base is comprised of approximately 70 per cent residential and 30 per cent non-residential. This ratio has stayed relatively unchanged over the last 5 years.

Net Municipal Property Tax

The net municipal property tax levy is the amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the town's operations. It does not include requisitions for education or the seniors' foundation.

Between 2004 and 2008, the town's municipal tax levy has fluctuated, with the lowest tax levy in the 5-year period being \$811,764 in 2006, and the highest tax levy being \$1,022,841 in 2007.

In 2008, the tax levy decreased to \$834,392. This decrease reflects the town's change in policy in 2008, where the new utility rate model for water and wastewater services is intended to cover the full cost for these services that were previously funded by the general tax levy.

Tables 1 and 2 illustrate sample residential and non-residential properties in Onoway. The tables show the amount of property tax owners will pay to the town in 2008, and what they could have expected to pay if Onoway had been a hamlet in Lac Ste. Anne County in 2008.

What would remain the same if the Town of Onoway dissolves?

- 911 Service
- Disaster Services
- RCMP Service
- Electrical Power and Gas Utility Providers and Franchise Agreements
- Family and Community Support Services/ East End Bus Program
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Garbage collection
- Grass Cutting

What would change if the Town of Onoway dissolves?

Lac Ste. Anne County provides services in the hamlets of Cherhill, Glenevis, Green Court, Gunn, Rich Valley, Rochfort Bridge and Sangudo. Onoway's residents could expect to receive services at the same level as these hamlets.

Potential changes include the following:

Ambulance Service

The responsibility for ground ambulance services will be transferred from municipalities to the Government of Alberta's new provincial health authority effective April 1, 2009.

Currently, users of the Onoway ambulance service, provided by the Parkland Ambulance Authority, are charged directly for the service.

Lac Ste. Anne County is a member of the Ste. Anne Regional Ambulance Authority. Therefore, services would be provided by the county ambulance service until the transfer of service to the provincial authority. During this time, users of the service will continue to be charged directly by the providing authority.

Assessment Services

The town is a member of the Capital Region Assessment Services Commission, which hires contracted assessors to provide property tax assessment services to the town and the other member municipalities.

Upon dissolution, the county would become responsible to provide assessment services for Onoway properties. The county would withdraw Onoway's membership in the commission.

The county employs its own assessment staff, and also uses contracted assessors as required.

Assets and Liabilities

On December 31, 2007, the town had liquid financial assets of \$1,051,438. These include cash, receivables, short-term investments and land for resale.

Additional assets include such things as buildings and public works equipment.

On December 31, 2007, the town had financial liabilities of \$929,977. These include such things as long-term debt, deferred revenue, and accounts payable by the town.

This means that if the town had dissolved in 2007, there would have been sufficient liquid assets to cover all of its liabilities.

Upon dissolution, the town's assets and liabilities would transfer to the county.

The county would be required to deposit cash and any proceeds from the sale of Onoway assets into a special reserve fund used only to reduce liability incurred by the Town of Onoway, or for projects in Onoway. The reserve fund remains established until the funds are depleted. If there are not sufficient assets to cover all of the town's liabilities upon dissolution, Onoway residents would continue to be responsible to pay for outstanding liabilities, which could be funded through property taxes, user fees, grants, or a combination of the above.

Bylaws and Enforcement

Currently, the town has various enforcement bylaws in place, which include nuisance, unsightly property, animal control, traffic, and sidewalk snow removal. The bylaws are enforced by the town's bylaw enforcement officer.

Upon dissolution, existing town bylaws would remain in force in Onoway until the county council either amends, repeals, or replaces them. The county's intent is that the county's bylaws and administrative processes would be applied in Onoway as in other county hamlets.

The county would review all town bylaws. If a town bylaw is similar to a county bylaw, such as the animal control bylaw, the town bylaw would be repealed and replaced by the county bylaw. Where the county does not have a similar bylaw, the town bylaw may be retained for the hamlet of Onoway if it is fair and not inconsistent with existing county bylaws.

Upon dissolution, Lac Ste. Anne County peace officers would provide enforcement services in Onoway, as they do in the rest of the county.

Capital Projects

Currently, the town has a multi-year capital infrastructure plan.

Upon dissolution, the county would complete the projects that are identified in the plan if funding is in place. Projects underway where sufficient funding is not in place could be completed by using the special reserve fund for Onoway.

Projects identified in the town's multi-year capital plan where funding is not in place would be reviewed and considered along with the needs of the rest of the county.

Council Representation and Meetings

The Town of Onoway council consists of four councillors and a mayor, all elected at-large. Council meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. If members of the public wish to make a presentation to

council at a council meeting, they can do so by providing notice to the town chief administrative officer by 4:00 p.m. of the Thursday prior to the council meeting.

Lac Ste. Anne County council consists of seven members elected from seven electoral divisions. The county council appoints the reeve from amongst members of council.

County council meetings are at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the county office in Sangudo.

The county council also has a Development Committee meeting on the first Wednesday of the month to deal with planning and development matters.

If members of the public wish to make a presentation at a council meeting, they must contact the county office in advance to be included on the council agenda.

Upon dissolution, because of the degree of population increase that would occur, the county would be required to review its current electoral boundaries before the next election to determine appropriate population distribution among all electoral boundaries in the county.

Currently, Onoway lies within division 1 (Onoway South). The division 1 councillor, Lorne Olsvik, would represent Onoway residents, until the electoral boundary review is complete and an election occurs.

Economic Development

The town is a member of the Grande Alberta Economic Region (GAER), which is a non-profit economic development corporation with 14 member municipalities.

There is no business license requirement for the town. A Hawkers and Peddlers bylaw requires mobile salespeople to be licensed.

Upon dissolution, Onoway's membership in GAER would transfer to the county. The county would review whether it would continue with the

membership in the corporation, as the county is not currently a member.

The county requires a business license for all businesses located within the county. This includes minor and major home businesses, as well as commercial and industrial operations. This could mean all Onoway businesses may be required to apply for a business license at a cost of \$100.

Employees and Administration

The town has nine permanent full-time positions. The town also contracts a peace officer part-time, and hires seasonal staff to work in the public works department as grant funding is available and workloads require.

The county has approximately 45 permanent full-time positions. Upon dissolution, the county would retain town staff to help close Onoway's affairs during the transition period following dissolution. The county would review operational requirements and assess whether town employees would be retained following the effective date of dissolution.

Garbage Collection, Recycling and Toxic Round-Up

The town provides weekly garbage collection year-round, as well as weekly collection of organic material from May to October. Weekly curb-side recycling is also provided by the town, which is mandatory for residential garbage collection, but optional for non-residential garbage collection users.

The town also provides an annual hazardous waste round-up, and an annual spring clean-up for large items.

Both the town and the county are members of the Highway 43 East Waste Commission. Town residents would be able to continue to haul waste, including electronic waste, to the landfill or transfer stations at no charge.

Garbage and recycling collection is charged as a separate fee on the town's utility bill.

The county would continue to provide garbage collection and curb-side recycling, charged as a separate fee on the utility bill. The annual hazardous waste round-up will continue, sponsored by the Waste Commission, the county and some villages. The county plans to review the annual spring clean-up and the collection of organic material.

General Inquiries and Emergencies

The town administration is the contact point for general inquiries and utility-related emergencies during regular business hours. The town office is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., with the exception of the third Wednesday of the month when the office closes at 2:00 p.m. for a town staff meeting.

For after hour emergencies, residents can call members of council or the chief administrative officer's personal phone numbers, who in turn notifies the utility operator on-call. The sewer lift station and water treatment plant have alarm systems that automatically notify the utility operator on-call of emergencies.

Residents can get information at the town office during regular business hours, by contacting one of the members of council, from the monthly newsletter, or through advertising published in the local newspapers.

Upon dissolution, residents would contact the county office, located in Sangudo, for utility-related emergencies. For after-hours emergencies, residents would call the county chief administrative officer or the manager of public works who would notify the appropriate county personnel.

The county mails out an annual newsletter to residents and ratepayers, and the county's annual report is available at the county office upon request. The county's website is updated regularly.

Information about the county would be provided to residents at the time of dissolution, including regular and emergency contact phone numbers.

Grants

The town currently applies for a variety of grants based on town priorities.

Upon dissolution, Onoway would no longer be eligible to apply directly for municipal grants; however, for grants that use population as part of the funding formula, the county's allocation would increase. The county would complete any funded projects in Onoway.

The county would use its future grant funds to address county priorities, including those in the hamlet of Onoway. Future projects and programs in Onoway would be considered along with the needs of the rest of the county.

Insurance – Community Organizations

The Onoway and District Agricultural Society and the Onoway Royal Canadian Legion are listed on the town's insurance policy as "additional named insured." Each group pays its own insurance cost.

The county's insurance policy providers do not allow agricultural societies and legions to be newly added to their policy. Therefore, upon dissolution, these community groups would be required to make new arrangements for insurance coverage.

Library

Currently, the Onoway Municipal Library Board operates the library, located in the civic centre. The town appoints a member of council to the board. The town is a member of the Yellowhead Regional Library System, which provides services to the municipal library. The town provides an annual funding contribution to both the municipal library and the regional library system, which is required to obtain grant funds from the province.

In accordance with the *Alberta Libraries Act*, if dissolution occurs, the Onoway Library Board would dissolve upon dissolution of the town. Assets owned by the town would become the county's property and those owned by the

Yellowhead Regional Library System would be returned to the system.

Upon dissolution, Lac Ste. Anne County would plan to keep the Oneway library open. The county's municipal library board would become responsible for governance of the library in Oneway. The county would establish an advisory board or non-profit society in Oneway to operate it. This would be similar to the operation of other libraries in the county such as Darwell and Rich Valley.

Municipal Planning

Currently, the town has a land-use bylaw and a municipal development plan, and contracts for municipal planning and development services.

In 2008, the town expects two new subdivisions to commence development, and council anticipates a development application for a third subdivision.

Upon dissolution, the village's land-use bylaw and municipal development plan would remain in effect until the county's land use bylaw and municipal development plan are changed to include Oneway. The county employs in-house staff who would provide planning and development services for Oneway.

Municipal Taxes

The town establishes municipal tax rates that generate funds to pay for programs and services provided to residents. Each property's tax is calculated by multiplying the tax rate by the assessed value of the property. The town has split mill rates for vacant and improved property for both residential and non-residential properties.

The county's 2008 combined tax rate for residential properties (municipal, school, and housing foundation) is approximately 8.5 per cent higher than the town's 2008 combined tax rate. For non-residential properties, the county's tax rate is approximately 14 per cent higher than the town's.

The town provides an optional monthly payment program for property taxes.

Upon dissolution, any taxes owed to the town would be owed to the county.

The county also has a split mill rate for vacant and improved residential property, but not for non-residential property.

For a breakdown of the 2008 tax comparisons for improved properties, refer to Tables 1 and 2 at the end of the study.

Municipal Tax Due Dates and Penalties for Unpaid Taxes

Town property taxes are due in the year they are levied and are payable by July 31. A penalty of 10 per cent is levied on any unpaid balance of current taxes on August 1st, and a further 2 percent on the first of each month for the remainder of the calendar year.

Any taxes which are not paid on or before December 31 of the current year are deemed to be in arrears and would be subject to a penalty of 15 per cent on January 1 of each subsequent calendar year.

Upon dissolution, Oneway property owners would receive a tax notice from the county. County property taxes are due and payable by July 31 in the year they are levied. A penalty of 6 per cent is assessed on any unpaid balance of current taxes on August 1, and an additional 2 per cent per month on any unpaid balance of current taxes on September 1, October 1, and November 1.

Any remaining unpaid taxes after December 31 of the year in which they are levied would be subject to a penalty in the following year and in each year thereafter as long as the taxes remain unpaid. A penalty of 2 per cent is assessed on January 1, 4 per cent on February 1, and 6 per cent on March 1.

The county offers residents a preauthorized monthly installment plan for the payment of property taxes.

If Onoway were to dissolve in 2008, the county may rescind the town's property tax penalty bylaw in 2009, and apply the county tax penalty bylaw to Onoway properties.

Museum

The Onoway Museum is operated by the Onoway Historical Guild in the old vacant elementary school owned by Northern Gateway School Division. The town contributes to the operation of the museum by waiving the utility fees annually for the facility.

Upon dissolution, the county would review this policy, therefore, the county may no longer waive the utility fees for the museum.

Recreation Facilities and Parks

The Onoway Community Hall is owned by the town, but leased and operated by the Onoway Facility Enhancement Association (OFEA). The OFEA pays the utility costs, and the general maintenance of the facility. The town contributes to major maintenance costs on a case-by-case basis.

The town operates the following parks:

- Ruth Cust Park (including RV Dump);
- Elks Park (playground, bon fire pits);
- 3 baseball diamonds; and
- 1 stand-alone playground.

The arena is owned and operated by the Onoway & District Agricultural Society, and the curling rink is owned and operated by the Onoway Curling Club Society.

The town provides snow removal and grass-cutting services for the community hall, arena and curling rink. The county would plan to continue to provide grass cutting and snow removal for these facilities at no cost.

Upon dissolution, the ownership of the community hall and parks would transfer to the county. The county plans to review the current operations and lease agreements for the community hall.

The county plans to continue to operate and maintain town parks, however, an inspection of all playground equipment would be implemented. The county would repair, replace, or remove structures accordingly, to ensure safety for playground users.

Lac Ste. Anne County offers a recreation and culture grant that is available to community groups and agencies offering recreation and culture facilities and programming.

Roads and Sidewalks

The town provides for the construction and maintenance of the road and sidewalk system.

There are approximately 17 kilometers of roads in the town. The roads are primarily surfaced with cold-mix or a higher grade of paving, and there is gravel surfacing on outskirt roadways within town boundaries.

The town has a "snow depth activation" policy for snow removal from roadways, and provides sanding to the school parking lots and the bus loop.

The town has a sidewalk snow removal bylaw, which makes landowners responsible to clear snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property. If a landowner fails to remove the snow, the town will hire a contractor to remove the snow. The snow-removal cost is charged to the property. The cost of the removal acts as the fine against the property.

Upon dissolution, the county would assume care, control, and management of Onoway roadways and sidewalks. The county would implement its own maintenance and snow removal policy for hamlets, which identifies the following priorities, in order:

- Truck/ school routes;
- Downtown area;
- Industrial areas;
- Residential areas; and
- Municipal properties and back alleys.

Snow removal would commence upon the cessation of a major snowfall. The county would not continue to provide sanding of the school parking lots and bus loop, however, could provide the service to the school district on a fee-for-service basis.

Upon dissolution, the county would implement its own sidewalk snow removal bylaw in Onoway. The fines established in the county bylaw are \$50 for the first offense, \$75 for a second offense, and \$100 for a third and any subsequent offenses.

Safety Codes Inspection Services

The town is accredited to provide safety codes permits, and uses a contractor to perform safety codes inspections.

Upon dissolution, the responsibility to provide safety codes permits and inspections in Onoway becomes the responsibility of the county.

Lac Ste. Anne County is accredited to issue safety codes permits for building, electrical, gas, plumbing, and private sewage systems. Fire safety inspections and investigations are provided by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. The county uses a different contractor than the town to provide safety codes inspections.

Special Events

Currently, the town provides administrative and financial support to two annual special events in Onoway, Heritage Days and Christmas Light-Up. The Heritage Days Planning Committee is a committee of town council, since the previous volunteer committee dissolved. The town also organizes the annual Christmas Light-Up event.

Upon dissolution, the county would review the municipality's current levels of support to Onoway community events.

Onoway community groups would be eligible to apply to the county for financial assistance for special events through its grant programs.

Streetlights

Fortis owns, operates and maintains the streetlights. The town pays the electricity costs from general revenues. In 2007, the cost was \$30,011.

The county currently pays the cost of streetlights in hamlets from general revenues; however, this policy is being reviewed. Street lighting costs may be funded by a special levy on all properties in county hamlets in the future.

Upon dissolution, Onoway residents may expect the costs of streetlights to be an additional cost on future tax notices. Based on 2007 costs, this would amount to an annual cost of approximately \$75 per utility account.

Summer Villages – Administration

The town provides contracted administrative services to the Summer Villages of Silver Sands, Sunrise Beach, and South View.

Upon dissolution, the county would review the existing contracts with the summer villages and determine whether they would continue to provide the service.

Town Office

The town owns the civic centre, which also houses the municipal library. The town fire hall is also situated on the property.

In addition to conducting regular municipal business, the town provides free services to the community, such as meeting and storage space for community groups, the community information wall, a public computer terminal, and maintenance of the community television channel public announcements.

On a fee-for-service basis, the town provides photocopying, faxing and scanning services, as well as leased storage and tower space to a local internet service provider. Lac Ste. Anne County municipal maps are also for sale at the town office.

Upon dissolution, municipal administrative services for Onoway would be provided by the

county from its municipal office in Sangudo. Additional services currently provided in Onoway would be reviewed.

Utilities

Utility Billing

Town utility bills are issued monthly and can be paid by cash or cheque at the town office.

Upon dissolution, Onoway residents would pay their utility bills to the county. County residents can pay their utility bills at the county office by using cash, Interac, Visa, Mastercard or American Express, through most financial institutions, or by Internet banking.

Utility Rates

The town utilities include water, wastewater, and waste management. In February 2008, the town introduced a new utility rate model, which is intended to cover the full cost of operating the utility systems, pay for the utility-related debt, and contribute to capital reserves.

The new rate model is comprised of five separate charges:

- Utility administration charge;
- Water consumption charge;
- Water system charge;
- Sewer consumption charge;
- Sewer system charge.

Also included on the utility bill are separate charges for garbage pick-up and recycling.

The town has implemented a Seniors Utility Assistance Program, where eligible seniors may apply annually to credit their utility accounts with the amount equivalent to the total utility administration, water system, and sewer system charges for 1 year.

From 2003 to 2007, the town did not collect enough revenue from the utility rates to cover

the total cost of operating the utility systems and pay for utility-related debt.

Upon dissolution, the county would bill Onoway residents monthly and apply the existing utility rates until a review is conducted of the current rate model. According to county policy, utility rates pay for the full cost of providing the service. The utility rate in Onoway would be reviewed to determine if the current rate is sufficient to cover the cost of providing the utility service.

Utility Systems

The town's water and wastewater systems are registered with Alberta Environment and are operated in compliance with Alberta Environment requirements.

The town's water source is two ground water wells, and the wastewater system is a lagoon system with four storage cells, a main trunk line, and a lift station. In 2008, the town is constructing a second trunk line. The town relies on surface drainage for storm water management.

Upon dissolution, the county would manage the waterworks and waste water systems. The county employs utility operators who would operate the systems. Emergency service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The county would review operational requirements of the Onoway systems to determine if additional personnel for the county would be necessary.

Any future upgrading to the systems would be funded using one or a combination of the following sources: grants, utility rates, a local improvement tax, or the special reserve fund that would be set up for Onoway's assets.

Table 1
Onoway Residential Property Tax Comparison
2008 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual residential properties in Onoway if the town were to dissolve. Property taxes may not be the only financial cost associated with living in Onoway that could change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Town of Onoway now provides to residents that Lac Ste. Anne County does not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Onoway.

<u>Town of Onoway</u>		<u>Lac Ste. Anne County</u>	
Municipal	4.2500	Municipal	4.3250
School Tax	1.6299	School Tax	2.0580
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.1095</u>	Seniors Foundation	<u>0.1170</u>
2008 Comparative Tax Rate:		5.9894	
		6.5000	

If Onoway remains a town

Actual 2008 residential property taxes levied on three properties in Onoway based on the 2008 town residential tax rate:

Assessment			Town Tax Rate			Onoway Property Taxes		
Property 1	\$ 90,790	x	5.9894 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 544	
Property 2	\$ 294,280	x	5.9894 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 1,763	
Property 3	\$ 456,210	x	5.9894 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 2,732	

If Onoway dissolves

Estimated residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2008 county residential tax rate:

Assessment			County Tax Rate			Lac Ste. Anne Property Tax		
Property 1	\$ 90,790	x	6.500 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 590	
Property 2	\$ 294,280	x	6.500 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 1,913	
Property 3	\$ 456,210	x	6.500 mills	x	0.001	=	\$ 2,965	

Other costs

Description		Estimated Annual Charge
Streetlights	Based on 2007 costs, per utility account	\$ 75

Table 2
Onoway Non-residential Property Tax Comparison
2008 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual non-residential properties in Onoway if the town were to dissolve. Property taxes may not be the only financial cost associated with living in Onoway that could change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Town of Onoway now provides to residents that Lac Ste. Anne County does not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Onoway.

<u>Town of Onoway</u>		<u>Lac Ste. Anne County</u>	
Municipal	15.9900	Municipal	18.9920
School Tax	4.2815	School Tax	4.1920
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.1095</u>	Seniors Foundation	<u>0.1170</u>
2008 Comparative Tax Rate:		20.3810	
		23.3010	

If Onoway remains a town

Actual 2008 non-residential property taxes levied on three properties in Onoway based on the town 2008 non-residential tax rate:

Assessment		Town Tax Rate		Onoway Property Taxes	
Property 1	\$ 49,110	x	20.3810 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 1,001
Property 2	\$ 188,050	x	20.3810 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 3,833
Property 3	\$ 864,110	x	20.3810 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 17,611

If Onoway dissolves

Estimated non-residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2008 county non-residential tax rate:

Assessment		County Tax Rate		Lac Ste. Anne Property Tax	
Property 1	\$ 49,110	x	23.3010 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 1,144
Property 2	\$ 188,050	x	23.3010 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 4,382
Property 3	\$ 864,110	x	23.3010 mills	x	0.001 = \$ 20,135

Other costs

Description		Estimated Annual Charge
Streetlights	Based on 2007 costs, per utility account	\$ 75

Notes



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How do I get more information?

A public meeting will be held on **October 20, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Onoway Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium** to discuss the information in the dissolution study. Town residents will be mailed a notice of the public meeting and are encouraged to attend.

Officials from Alberta Municipal Affairs will present the dissolution study and will be available to answer your questions.

Will there be a vote on dissolution?

Yes. Onoway residents will have two opportunities to vote in a non-binding plebiscite on the question of dissolution.

Advance vote

Saturday, October 25, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Onoway Community Hall.

Regular vote

Monday, October 27, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Onoway Community Hall.

The question on the ballot will be:

“Are you in favor of dissolving the Town of Onoway to become part of Lac Ste. Anne County?”

Alberta Municipal Affairs must administer the vote in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- At least 18 years of age;
- A Canadian citizen;
- A resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and
- A resident of the Town of Onoway on the day of the vote.

When registering to vote, residents are required to provide the **street address** or **legal description** of their residence in Onoway. A mailing address is not sufficient.

What happens next?

The Minister of Municipal Affairs will then make a recommendation about whether or not the town should dissolve.

In making a recommendation, the Minister will consider this report, the views of the town and county councils, the issues raised at the public meeting, and the results of the vote.

What will happen if the town dissolves?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the Provincial Cabinet, and Cabinet agrees, the existing town council and administration would work with the county to wind up the town's affairs by the recommended dissolution date.

What will happen if the town does not dissolve?

The Town of Onoway will maintain its status as an incorporated municipality. The town's council will continue to be responsible for providing governance, levying taxes, and providing municipal services to the town.

For further information, contact:

Coral Callioux or Lynne Nieman,
Alberta Municipal Affairs,
17th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4

To reach us by phone, dial 780-310-0000 (toll free) and enter 780-427-2225.